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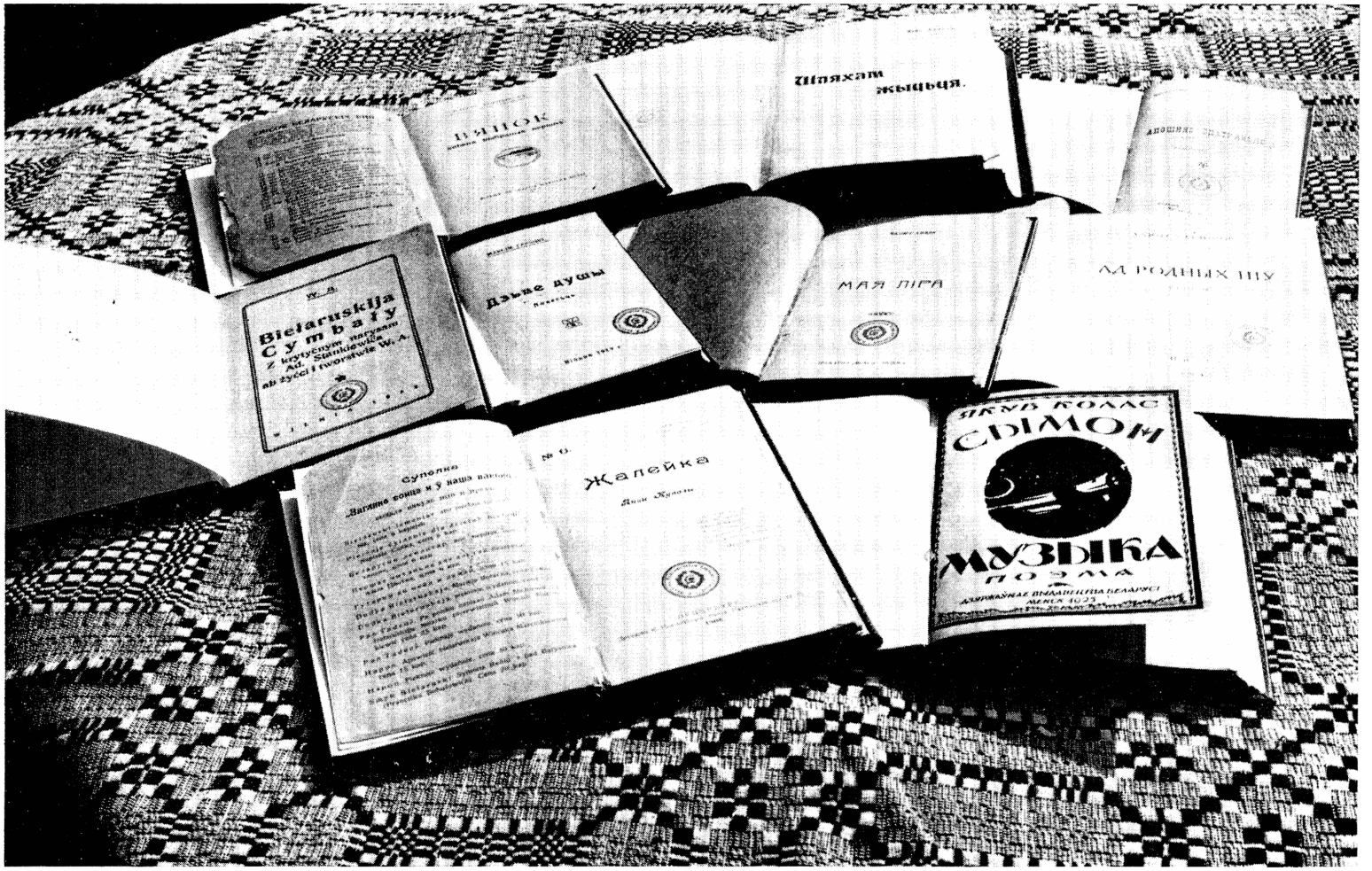

First editions of Byelorussian writers

БЕЛАРУСКАЯ БІБЛІЯТЭКА
І МУЗЭЙ
імя ФРАНЦІШКА СКАРЫНЫ

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ON MAY 15TH 1971 the Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and Museum was opened by Professor Robert Auty, Professor of Comparative Slavonic Philology in the University of Oxford, and blessed by Archbishop Domenico Enrici, Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain. This was the crowning moment of nearly a quarter of a century of efforts of a group of persons, the chief of them being Bishop Ceslaus Sipovich, Apostolic Visitor of Byelorussians. A keen bibliophile, he began collecting books almost immediately after his arrival from Rome in 1947 when, as a young priest, he was appointed Rector of the Byelorussian Catholic Mission in England. By 1960, when he was consecrated Bishop, there was already a sizeable library at the Mission centre at Marian House in North London. Bishop Sipovich was succeeded in the post of the Rector by another book lover, Father Leo Horoško (1911-1977) who brought with him from Paris, where he previously resided, his valuable private collection of books. In the ten years that followed, the library began to expand rapidly. Initially it contained books relating to Byelorussia as well as works of purely religious character, but with the increase in the number of the former it became necessary to divide the two sections and to establish a separate library dealing exclusively with Byelorussian material. For this purpose, on the initiative of Bishop Sipovich, the house at 37 Holden Road (across the street from Marian House) was acquired in 1970, and thus the Byelorussian Library and Museum, bearing the name of the first Byelorussian printer and translator of the Bible, Francis Skaryna (c. 1480-1540), came into being. The collection of religious books, with the exception of those dealing with the Church in Byelorussia, has remained at Marian House.

The newly established Library to all intents and purposes remained the private property of its founders, although it was never intended by them to be so. The situation changed on 23rd July 1979, when the Library became a Charitable Trust, governed by a Board of Trustees. At the present moment the Board consists of ten persons, appointed from among members of the Byelorussian Catholic and Orthodox clergy, representatives of the Byelorussian community in Great Britain, and British scholars with a special interest in Byelorussian studies.

The chief aim of the Library is to collect all material, both in printed and manuscript forms, relating to Byelorussia, and to make it accessible to all those interested in any aspect of Byelorussian studies. To this end a programme of intensive acquisition of newly published material has been initiated, partly through purchase and partly through exchange with other libraries. Today the Library receives practically all Byelorussian publications, as well as those relating to Byelorussia, which appear in the Byelorussian Soviet Republic, Poland and in the West. Its holdings have been further enriched by systematic search for old and out-of-print publications, and by numerous gifts and bequeaths from various individuals. At the present moment the Library holds over 12,000 titles, with an annual increase of 300-400. Most books are in Byelorussian, but there is also a considerable number of works in other languages, in particular Polish and Russian.

The Library's largest collection is in the field of Byelorussian literature, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that its holdings of about 4,000 in this section comprise works of practically all Byelorussian writers, past and present. There are several rare first editions, including *Žalejka* (St.P. 1908), the first book of verse by Byelorussia's greatest poet Janka Kupała (1882-1942), as well as his *Adviečnaja pieśnia* (St.P. 1910), *Son na kurhanie* (St.P. 1913), *Šlacham žyćcia* (St.P. 1913) and *Raskidanaje hniazdo* (Vilna 1919). Other first editions include *Batrak* (St.P. 1913), *Rodnyja zjavy* (Vilna 1914), *U Paleskaj hłušy* (Vilna 1923)

and *Symon Muzyka* (Minsk 1925) by another great Byelorussian writer, Jakub Kołas; *Vianok* (Vilna 1913), the only book of poems by Maksim Bahdanovič (1891-1917), published during his lifetime; *Ruń* (Vilna 1913) and *Dźvie dušy* (Vilna 1919) by Maksim Harecki (1893-1939); *Vasilki* (Vilna 1914) by Jadvihin Š. (1868-1922); *Kurhanna kvietka* (Vilna 1914) by Kanstancyja Bujła, to mention only a few. Among works published in 1920-39 in Western Byelorussia under Polish administration there are *Maja lira* (Vilna 1924) and the posthumous *Dzieja majej myśli, serca i voli* (Vilna 1932) by Kazimier Svajak (Father Constantine Stepovič, 1890-1926); *Biełaruskija cymbały* (Vilna 1933) by Vincuk Advažny (Father Joseph Hermanovič, 1890-1978); all four books of poetry by the present-day 'People's poet of Byelorussia' Maksim Tank, namely *Na etapach* (Vilna 1936), *Žuravinavy ćviet* (1937), *Narač* (1937) and *Pad mačtaj* (1938), the last one bearing an authographed dedication to Vincuk Advažny; plays by Francišak Alachnovič (1883-1944); books of verse by Michaś Mašara (1902-1976), Michaś Vasilok (1905-1960), Anatol Iviers and others.

The greater part of some 400 works on Byelorussian literary history and criticism consists of post-1945 publications, such as *Historyja biełaruskaj savieckaj litaratury* (2 vols, Minsk 1965-66); *Historyja biełaruskaj dakastryčnickaj litaratury* (2 vols, Minsk 1968-69); *Biełaruskaja litaratura (staražytny pieryjad)* by M. Dabrynin (Minsk 1952); *Biełaruski raman* by A. Adamovič (Minsk 1961); *Puciaviny rodnaha słova* by S. Aleksandrovič (Minsk 1971); *Pošuki imia* by H. Kisialoŭ (Minsk 1978); and the first work on the subject in English, *A History of Byelorussian Literature* by A. B. McMillin (Giessen 1977). The earlier works include *Našy pieśniary* by the first modern Byelorussian literary critic Anton Navina (Vilna 1918); *Dyjamanty biełaruskaha piśmienstva* by L. Leuš (Kiev 1919); *Biloruś'ke vidrodžennie* by Maksim Bahdanovič (Vienna 1916); the two fundamental works on the subject by M. Harecki, *Historyja biełaruskaj litaratury* (Vilna, 1st ed. 1920; 3rd ed. 1924) and *Chrystamatyja biełaruskaj litaratury* (Vilna 1923); *Chrestamatyja novaj biełaruskaj litaratury* by I. Dvarčanin (Vilna 1927); *Narysy pa biełaruskaj litaratury* by M. Piotuchovič (Minsk 1928); *Paetyka M. Bahdanoviča* by A. Uźniasienski (Kaunas 1926); and *Geschichte der Weissrussischen Volksdichtung und Literatur* by E. Karski (Berlin-Leipzig 1926).

Among over 400 books on Byelorussian language the pride of place belongs to the monumental *Belorusy* (1903-1922) by the 'Father of Byelorussian philology' E. Karski, as well as his first work in this field, *Obzor zvukov i form belorusskoj reči* (Moscow 1885). Another important work is B. Taraškievič's *Biełaruskaja hramatyka dla škoł* (Vilna, 1st ed. 1918, 5th definitive ed. 1929), the first grammar of modern literary Byelorussian. Other earlier publications include *Pačatkovaja hramatyka* by J. Losik (Minsk 1926); *Biełaruskaja hramatyka* by T. Łamcioŭ (Minsk 1935); *Severskobelorusskij govor* by P. Rastorguev (Leningrad 1927); and *Źmiena hramatyki biełaruskaha jazyka ŭ BSSR* by J. Stankievič (Vilna 1936). Among the post-1945 publications there are the two-volume *Hramatyka biełaruskaj movy* (Minsk 1962-66) published by the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences; *Kurs sučasnaj biełaruskaj litaraturnaj movy* (3 vols, Minsk 1957-61); *Narysy pa historyi biełaruskaj movy* (Minsk 1958); *Historyja biełaruskaj litaraturnaj movy* by A. Žuraŭski, I. Kramko *et al.* (2 vols, Minsk 1967-68); *Histaryčnaja leksikałohija biełaruskaj movy* by A. Bachańkoŭ *et al.* (Minsk 1970); *Histaryčnaja marfałohija biełaruskaj movy* by A. Bułyka *et al.* (Minsk 1979); *Dyjalektałaḥičny atłas biełaruskaj movy* (Minsk 1963); *Narysy pa biełaruskaj dyjalektałohii* (Minsk 1964); *Fanałahičnaja sistema biełaruskaj litaraturnaj movy* by A. Padłužny (Minsk 1968); *Nienaciskny vakalizm narodnych havorak Biełarusi* by N. Vajtovič (Minsk 1968); *Marfałohija dziejasłova ŭ biełaruskaj movie* by J. Mackievič (Minsk 1958); *Prymietnik u biełaruskaj movie*

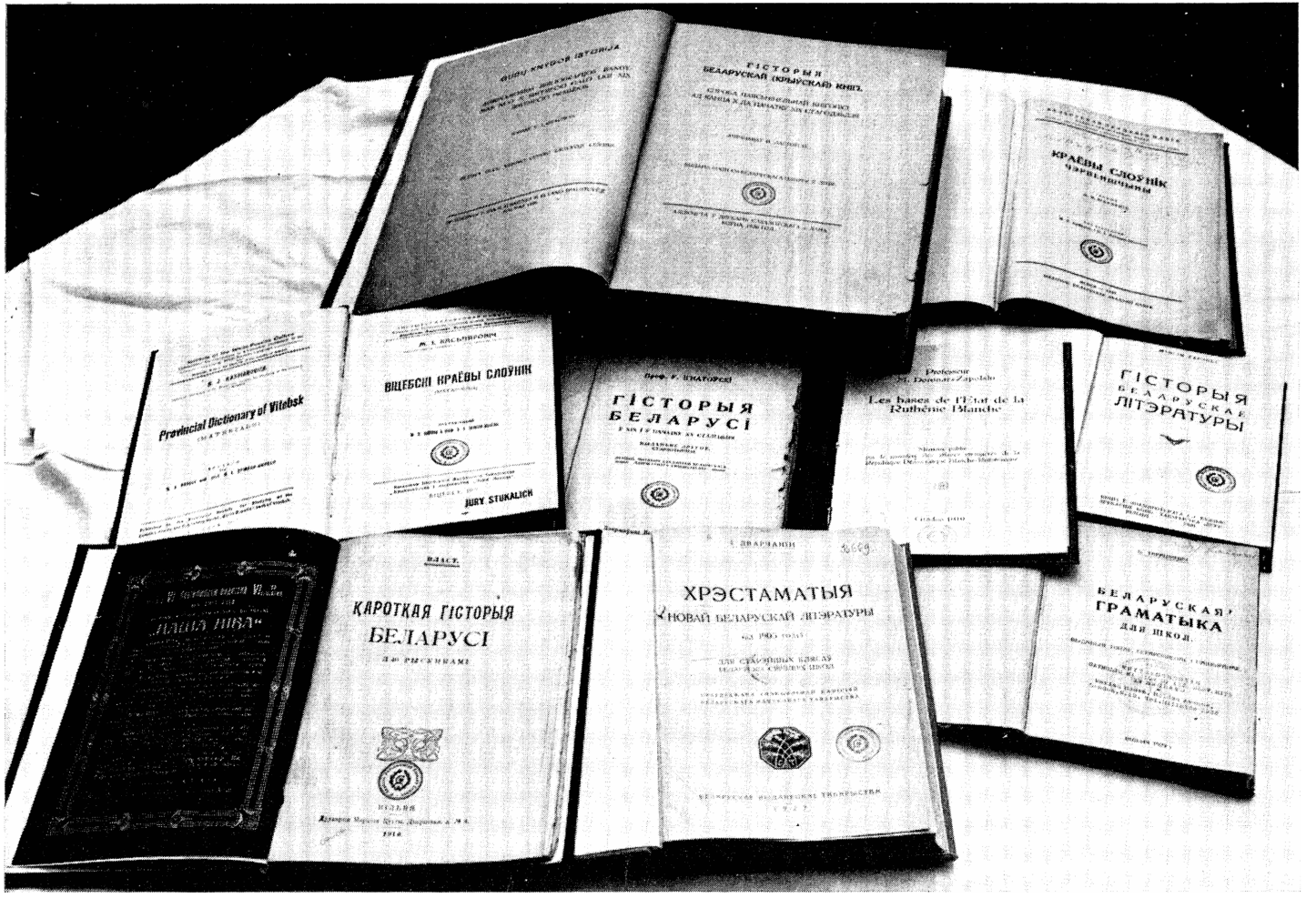
by M. Bułachaŭ (Minsk 1964); *Nazoŭnik u biełaruskaj movie* by M. Žydovič (Minsk 1970); *Zajmieńnik u biełaruskaj movie* by T. Sciaškovič (Minsk 1978); *Ličebnik u biełaruskich havorkach* by A. Čabiaruk (Minsk 1977); *Biełaruskaja antrapanimija* by M. Biryła (Minsk 1966, 1969); *Sistema slovazłučeńniaŭ u sučasnaj biełaruskaj movie* by A. Narkievič (Minsk 1972); *Sintaksis sučasnaj biełaruskaj movy* by M. Jaŭnievič and P. Sciacko (Minsk 1980) and many others.

The Library has a fine collection of dictionaries, many of them of considerable rarity, such as the first dictionary of the Byelorussian language, *Slovar' belorusskogo narečija* by I. Nosovič (St.P. 1870); *Smolenskij oblastnoj slovar'* by V. Dobrovol'skij (Smolensk 1914); *Nievialički biełaruska-maskoŭski sloŭnik* by M. Harecki (Vilna 1919); *Padručny rasijska-kryŭski (biełaruski) sloŭnik* by V. Łastoŭski (Kaunas 1924); *Viciebski krajovy sloŭnik* by M. Kaśpiarovič (Viciebsk 1927); *Krajovy sloŭnik Červieńščyny* by M. Šaternik (Minsk 1929); *Biełaruska-rasijski sloŭnik* by M. Bajkoŭ and S. Niekraševič (Minsk 1925); *Padručny biełaruska-polski sloŭnik* by B. Drucki-Padbiareski (Vilna 1929); *Ruska-biełaruski sloŭnik* by A. Aleksandrovič (Minsk 1937); and a number of issues of the series *Biełaruskaja navukovaja terminalohija* published by the Institute of Byelorussian Culture (later Byelorussian Academy of Sciences) in Minsk in the 1920s and early 30s. An interesting little-known work is *Sieben-Sprachen Wörterbuch* (Leipzig 1918), a German-Polish-Russian-Byelorussian-Lithuanian-Latvian-Yiddish dictionary. The Library possesses all dictionaries published after 1945, including *Biełaruska-ruski sloŭnik*, ed. K. Atrachovič (Minsk 1962); *Dyjalektny sloŭnik* by F. Jankoŭski (three issues, Minsk 1959-70); *Materyjały dla sloŭnika Minska-Maładziečanskich havorak* (three issues, Minsk 1970-77); *Krajovy sloŭnik Uschodniaj Mahiloŭščyny* by I. Bialkievič (Minsk 1970); *Materyjały dla sloŭnika Hrodzienskaj vobłaści* by T. Sciaškovič (Minsk 1972); *Krajovy sloŭnik Łahojščyny* by A. Varłyha (New York 1974); *Sloŭnik sinonimaŭ i blizkaznačnych sloŭ* by M. Kłyška (Minsk 1976); *Sloŭnik biełaruskaj narodnaj frazieałohii* by E. Miacielskaja and J. Kamaroŭski (Minsk 1972); *Etymałahičny sloŭnik frazieałahizmaŭ* by I. Lepiešaŭ (Minsk 1981); *Podręczny słownik polsko-białoruski* by A. Obrębska Jabłońska and M. Biryła (Warsaw 1962); *Ukrainska-biełaruski sloŭnik* by Lemciuhova (Minsk 1980); as well as all hitherto published volumes of *Tłumačalny sloŭnik biełaruskaj movy* (Minsk 1978-), *Etymałahičny sloŭnik biełaruskaj movy* (Minsk 1978-), *Častotny sloŭnik biełaruskaj movy* by N. Mažejka and A. Suprun (Minsk 1976-), *Sloŭnik biełaruskich havorak Paŭnočna-Zachodniaj Biełarusi i jaje pahraničča* (Minsk 1979-), and *Sloŭnik movy Skaryny* by U. Aničenka (Minsk 1977-).

It has been the good fortune of the Library to acquire a number of rare and valuable works on Byelorussian ethnography and folklore, among them *Piosnki wieśniacze z nad Niemna i Dźwiny* by J. Czeczot (Vilna 1846); *Sbornik pamjatnikov narodnogo tvorčestva v Severo-Zapadnom kraje* by P. Giltebrandt (Vilna 1867); *Sobranije pesen skazok i obyčajev krest'jan Severo-Zapadnogo kraja* by M. Dimitriev (Vilna 1869); *Belorusskije pesni* by P. Bezsonov (Moscow 1871); *Sbornik belorusskich poslovic* by I. Nosovič (St.P. 1874); *Belorusskije narodnyje pesni* (St.P. 1874) and *Materialy dlja izučenija byta i jazyka russkogo naselenija Severo-Zapadnogo kraja* (St.P. 1887-1902) by P. Šejn; *Smolenskij etnografičeskij sbornik* by V. Dobrovol'skij (St.P. 1891-Moscow 1903); some volumes of *Belorusskij sbornik* by E. Romanov (Kiev 1886-); *Prostonarodnyje primety i povar'ja . . . v Vitebskoj gubernii* (Viciebsk 1897) and *Nečistiki* (Vilna 1907) by K. Nikiforovskij; *Skazki i razskazy belorusov-polešukov* by A. Seržputovskij (St.P. 1911); *Zbiór rzeczy białoruskich* by A. Hurynovič (Cracow 1897); *Lud białoruski* by M. Federowski (Cracow 1897-Warsaw 1981); *Polesie wschodnie* by K. Moszyński (Warsaw 1927); *Polesie Rzeczyckie* (Cracow 1928)

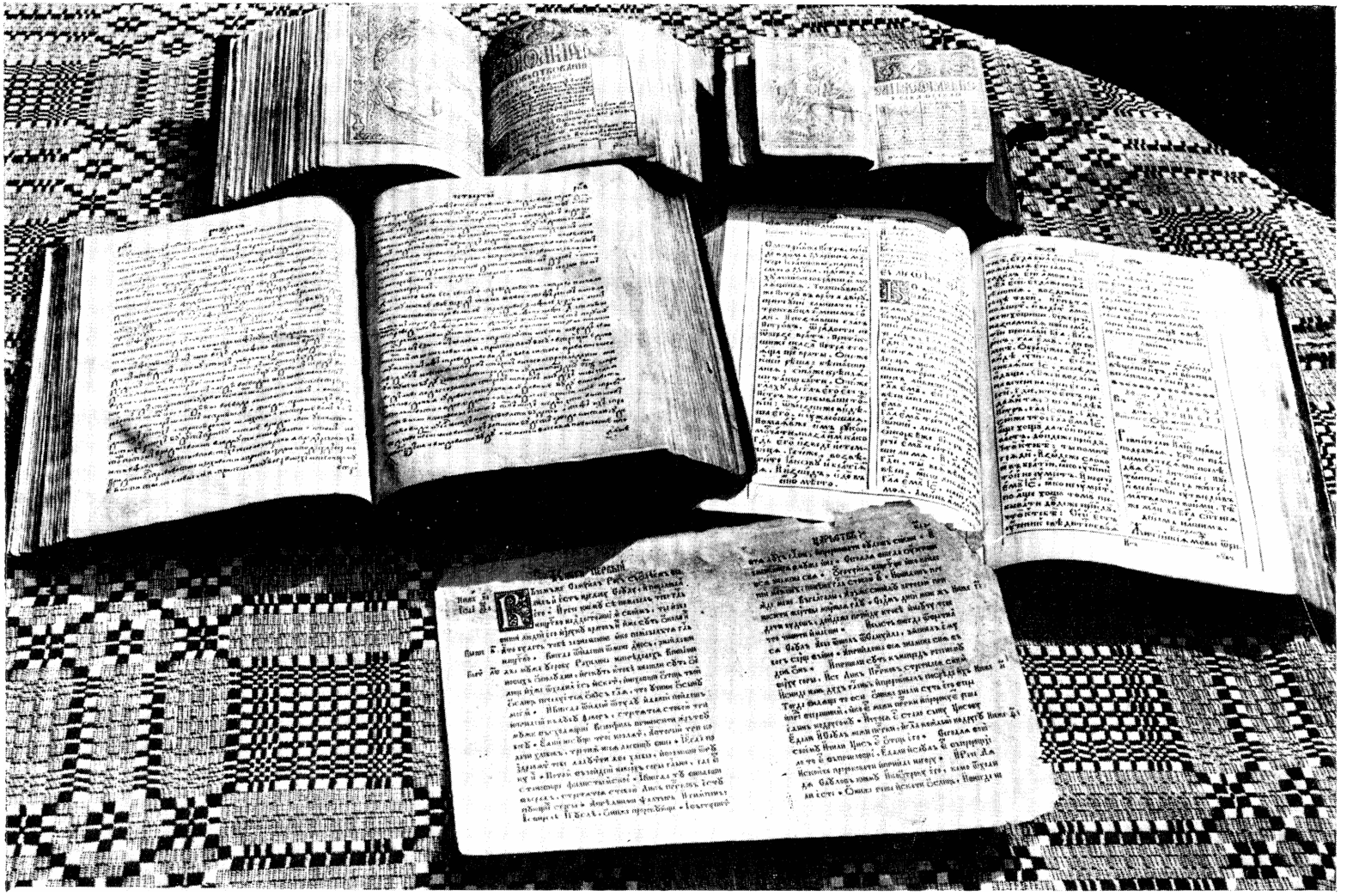
and *Kultura duchowa Polesia Rzeczyckiego* (Warsaw 1938) by C. Pietkievič; *Matarjały da vyvučeńnia folkloru i movy Viciebščyny* by A. Šlubski (Viciebsk 1927-28); and *Narodnaja tvorčaść łathalskich i ilukštenskich biełarusaŭ* by S. Sacharaŭ (Riga 1940). Among recent publications mention should be made of the 22 volumes so far published of the series *Biełaruskaja narodnaja tvorčaść* (Minsk 1970-); new collections of folklore such as *Pieśni siami viosak* (Minsk 1973), *Pieśni narodnych śviat i abradaŭ* (1974) and *Liryčnyja pieśni* (1976) by N. Hilevič; studies by V. Bandarčyk, *Historyja bielaruskaj etnahrafii* (2 vols, Minsk, 1964, 1970) and *Historyja biełaruskaj savieckaj etnahrafii* (1972); *Biełaruskaja kazka* (Minsk 1969) and *Siužety i matyvy biełaruskich narodnych kazak* (1978) by L. Barah; *Kupalskija pieśni* by A. Lis (Minsk 1974); and *Biełaruskaja narodnaja bałada* by L. Sałaviej (Minsk 1978). There are also several monographs dealing with various aspects of Byelorussian material culture, in particular beautifully produced monographs *Biełaruskaje narodnaje žyllo* (Minsk 1973), *Narodnaja sielskahaspadarčaja technika biełarusaŭ* (Minsk 1974) and *Biełaruskaje narodnaje adzieńnie* (Minsk 1975).

Works on history range from O. Turčinovič's *Obozrenije istorii Belorussii* (St.P. 1857) to the five-volume *Historyja Biełaruskaj SSR* (Minsk 1972-75). They form the second largest collection in the Library after that of Byelorussian literature. Among the rare publications is *Karotkaja historyja Biełarusi* by V. Łastoŭski (Vilna 1910), the first history of Byelorussia written in Byelorussian. Other important and rare publications comprise *Karotki narys historyi Biełarusi* (Vilna 1921) and *Historyja Biełarusi XIX i pačatku XX stalećcia* (Minsk 1926) by U. Ihnatoŭski; *Uschodniaja Biełaruś* by A. I. (Minsk 1918); *Biełaruś* (Berlin 1919) and *Adradžeńnie Biełarusi i Polšča* (Berlin 1921) by A. Ćvikievič; *Belorusy i poljaki* by K. Jezavitaŭ (Kaunas 1919); *Les Bases de l'Etat de la Ruthenie Blanche* by M. Doŭnar-Zapolski (Hrodna 1919); *Biełruski ruch ad 1917 da 1920 hodu* by J. Varonka (Kaunas 1920); *Uspaminy ab polskaj akupacyi Horadzienščyny* by I. Antonaŭ (n.p. 1921); *Praces 45-ci biełarusaŭ u Biełastoku* (Vilna 1923); *Da historyi biełaruskaha palityčnaha adradžeńnia* by A. Stankievič (Vilna 1934); and *Biełaruś učora i siańnia* by J. Najdziuk (Minsk 1944). There are also several works by Russian, Polish and other authors, such as *Čtenija po istorii Zapadnoj Rossii* by M. Kojalovič (St.P. 1884); *Belorussija i Litva*, ed. P. Batjuškov (St.P. 1890); *Očerk istorii Litovsko-Russkogo gosudarstva* by M. Ljubavskij (Moscow 1910); *Očerki istorii Polockoj zemli* by V. Danilevič (Kiev 1899); *Sejmy Litovsko-Russkogo gosudarstva* by N. Maksimejko (Char'kov 1902); *Rada Velikogo Knjažestva Litovskogo* by I. Malinovskij (Tomsk 1903); *Studya nad stosunkami narodowościowemi na Litwie przed Unią Lubelską* by J. Jakubowski; *Dzieje Unii Jagiellońskiej* by O. Halecki (Cracow 1919); *Dzieje Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego* by L. Kolankowski (Warsaw 1930); *Jagiellonowie i Moskwa* by H. Paszkiewicz; *Weissruthenien*, ed. W. Jaeger (Berlin 1919), *Weissruthenien, Volk und Land* by E. von Engelhardt (Berlin 1943) and many more. The collection of published historical documents includes *Belorusskij archiv drevnich gramot* (Moscow 1824); *Akty Zapadnoj Rossii* (St.P. 1846-51); relevant volumes of *Akty Jugo-Zapadnoj Rossii* (St.P. 1863-) and *Russkaja istoričeskaja biblioteka* (St.P. 1885-); single volumes of *Archeografičeskij sbornik* (Vilna 1867-) and *Akty, izdavajemyje Vilenskoju Archeografičeskoju Kommissieju* (Vilna 1865-); complete set on mircofiches); *Zakonodatel'nyje akty Velikogo Knjažestva Litovskogo* (Leningrad 1937); a very rare volume of *Historyja Biełarusi ŭ dakumentach i materyjałach* (Minsk 1936); *Belorussija v epochu feodalizma* (4 vols, Minsk 1961-79); *Polockije gramoty*, ed. A. Choroškevič (Moscow, 1977, 78), and others.

The most venerable Byelorussian historical and legal document is without doubt *Statut Vielikoho Kniaztva Litovskoho*, the code of civil and criminal law

Examples of early 20th-century Byelorussian scholarship

Early 20th-century religious publications

Byelorussian manuscript documents of the 15th-18th centuries



Early printed books. From top left corner: New Testament (1652); New Testament (1623); Lithuanian Statute of 1588 (1594 edition); Leitourgicon (1695); fragment of F. Skaryna's Bible (1518).

of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which was promulgated in 1588 and had three printed editions in Vilna between that year and 1594. The Library has been most fortunate to obtain a somewhat defective copy of the 1594 edition of this rare and valuable publication. It has also a copy of Vilna 1619 Polish edition of the *Statut*, bound together with the Polish version of *Trybunał* (Vilna 1616). The *Statut* was in force until 1840 and its last official edition, with parallel texts in Polish and Russian, appeared in 1810 in St. Petersburg. There is a copy of this edition in the Library, as well as the most comprehensive study to date of the *Statut* by I. Lappo, *Litovskij Statut 1588 goda* (3 vols, Kaunas 1934-38). Other publications of Byelorussian historical legal documents include *Statut Velikogo Knjažestva Litovskogo 1529 goda* (Minsk 1961; original Byelorussian text and Russian translation); and *Statut Kazimierza Jagiellończyka* (Vilna 1826; Byelorussian text and Polish translation), being the first printed edition of the 15th-century predecessor of the *Statut*, known as *Sudebnik Korola Kazimera*.

The section on the history of the Church in Byelorussia is very comprehensive and contains all major works on the subject, including *Rodnaja mova ŭ śviatyniach* (Vilna 1929) and *Chryścijanstva i biełaruski narod* (Vilna 1940) by A. Stankievič, *Karotki narys historyi Pravasłaŭnaje Carkvy ŭ Vialikim Litoŭskim* by A. Karol (New Brunswick 1956); *Pravasłaŭnaja Carkva ŭ Vialikim Kniastvie Litoŭskim za časoŭ Uładysława Jahajły* by M. Łapicki (South River 1978); *Matarjały da historyi Biełaruskaje Pravasłaŭnaje Carkvy (peryjad savieckaje i niamieckaje akupacyi)* by A. M. (Germany 1948); and *Biełaruś* by Archbp. Athanasios (Buenos Aires 1966). Among the works of non-Byelorussian authors there are *Istoričeskoje izvestije o voznikšej v Pol'še Unii* by N. Bantyš-Kamenskij (Moscow 1808); *Litovskaja cerkovnaja Unija* by M. Kojalovič (St.P. 1859-61); *Zapiski Iosifa Mitropolita Litovskogo* (St.P. 1883); *Istorija Minskoj Archiepiskopii* by S. Runkievič (St.P. 1893); *Posledneje vossojedinenije s Pravoslavnoj Cerkov'ju uniatov Belorusskoj Eparchii* by G. Šavel'skij (St.P. 1910); *Unia Brzeska* (Warsaw 1907) and *Dzieje Kościoła Unickiego na Litwie i Rusi* (Warsaw 1906) by E. Likowski; *Dzieje zniweczenia św. Unii na Białorusi i Litwie* by W. Chotowski (Cracow 1898); *Kościół Katolicki a Katarzyna II, 1772-1784* by M. Loret (Cracow-Warsaw 1910); *Sprawa dysydencka, 1764-1766* by C. Łubieńska (Cracow-Warsaw 1911); *Kościół Prawosławny a Rzeczpospolita Polska* by K. Chodynicki (Warsaw 1934), and others. It would not be out of place to mention here a few Byelorussian religious books which show that with the growth of national self-awareness there arose a need to praise God in the native tongue. Such are the Catholic *Karotki katechizm* (Vilna 1907); *Słova ab pakucie* (Vilna 1913); prayer books *Boh z nami* by B. Pačobka (Vilna 1915) and *Hołas dušy* by Fr. K. Stepovič (Vilna 1926); *Niadzielašnija evanhelii i navuki* by Fr. I. Bobič (Vilna 1922); and the Orthodox *Pieršyja malitvy* (Vilna 1918).

The library possesses an extensive collection of books on art (including folk art), architecture, music and theatre. With the exceptions of *Biełaruski piesieńnik* (Vilna 1918), U. Teraŭski's *Biełaruski Lirnik* (Berlin 1922), *Biełaruski spieŭnik* (Vilna 1929), A. Stepovič's *Za Baćkaŭščynu* (Vilna 1935) and a few others, the majority of them were published after 1945. Special mention should be made of the fact that Library's holdings are now being used for the publication of a book of Byelorussian ecclesiastical chant (*Biełaruski carkoŭny śpieŭnik*) under the editorship of G. de Picarda.

A library which bears the name of the first Byelorussian printer can be expected to show particular interest in everything which has to do with the book, its history, production and distribution. This library has therefore succeeded in building up an extensive collection of works of Byelorussian

bibliography, both general and specialised, librarianship, as well as the history of printing. In particular it has a copy of V. Łastoŭcki's *Historyja biełaruskaj (kryŭskaj) knihi* (Kaunas 1926) which, despite its many defects, remains to date the only comprehensive bibliography of Byelorussian manuscript and printed books from their origin to the end of the 18th century. Many studies of life and work of Francis Skaryna include P. Vladimirov's *Doktor Francisk Skorina, jego perevody, pečatnyje izdanija i jazyk* (St.P. 1888); *Čatyrochsotleccie biełaruskaha druku* (Minsk 1926); *Doktar Francišak Skaryna—pieršy drukar biełaruski* by A. Stankievič (Vilna 1925); *450 hod biełaruskaha knihadrukavańnia* (Minsk 1968); and *Scoriniana* (Munich 1970) containing contributions to Skaryna studies by Byelorussian scholars living in the West, in particular by Symon Braha, the author of the monographs *Doktar Skaryna ŭ Maskvie* (New York-Munich 1963), *Lakalizacyja žyćciapisu Doktara Skaryny* (*ibid.* 1965) and *Pytańnie imia Doktara Skaryny* (*ibid.* 1967). There is also a copy of E. Henderson's *Biblical Researches and Travels in Russia* (London 1826) in which the author, for the first time in the English language, describes Skaryna's work and makes linguistic analysis of his biblical translations, comparing them with Greek, Latin, Church Slavonic and Hebrew versions.

Of the original Skaryna editions the Library has only a small fragment (ff. 19-22) of his *Knihi pervyi car'stv*, or the First Book of Kings, printed in Prague in 1518. It has, however, microfilms and photographic reproductions of all known books printed by him. There is also a copy of a curious book entitled *Introduction in Chaldaicam linguam, Syriacam atque Armenicam et decem alias linguas* by Theseus Ambrosius Albonesi (Pavia 1539), containing the text of one page, transliterated in Latin characters, from Skaryna's Second Book of Kings (1518).

There are over twenty books in the Library printed before 1800. In addition to those already mentioned the collection includes *Novyj Zavet i psalmy* (Vilna 1623); *Novyj Zavet i psalmy* (Kucieina 1652), with main text in Church Slavonic and commentaries in Byelorussian; the first Uniate *Leitourgicon* (Supraśl 1695), in its structure strongly reminiscent of the Roman Missal; *Sobranije pripadkov* (Supraśl 1722); *Sarmatiae Europeae descriptio* by A. Guagnini (Speier 1581); A. Koialowicz's *Historiae Lituanae* (Gdańsk 1650, Antwerp 1661); *Inwentarz konstytucyy Koronnych i W.X. Litewskiego* (Leipzig 1733) and a few others.

The Library receives over 40 serials, including newspapers *Źviazda, Čyrvonaja źmiena, Nastaŭnickaja hazeta, Litaratura i mastactva, Niva, Biełarus*, and journals *Biełaruś, Maładość, Połymia, Vieści Akademii Navuk BSSR, Pomniki historyi i kultury Biełarusi, Biełaruskaja linhvistyka, Narodnaja aśvieta, Rodnaja pryroda, Zapisy, Božym šlacham, Biełaruskaja dumka* and others. Altogether there are over 200 serial titles, many of them pre-1939. In particular there are complete sets of *Kałośsie* (1935-39), *Volny ściah* (1920-22), clandestine *Sialanskaja dola* (1921-22) and a few more, as well as a number of titles which ceased publication after one or two issues such as *Varta* (1918), *Na čužynie* (1920), *Zamiežnaja Biełaruś* (1926), *Hadavik Biełaruskaha Navukovaha Tavarystva ŭ Vilni* (1933), *Zapisy Biełaruskaha Navukovaha Tavarystva* (1938), and *Maładaja Biełaruś* (1936). The majority of earlier periodical publications, however, are represented by incomplete runs of one or more years. Such are *Krynica* (later *Biełaruskaja krynica*, (1921-40), *Chryścijanskaja dumka* (1931-39), *Pravasłaŭny biełarus* (1925); *Kryvič* (1923-26), *Sialanskaja niva* (1926), *Maładniak* (1931), *Roskvit* (one number 1927-28), *Połymia revalucyi* (1933-37), *Šlach moładzi* (1932-39), *Biełaruski letapis* (1937-38), *Biełaruskaja škola ŭ Łatvii* (1928-33) and several others. There are a few incomplete sets of war-time publications both in German-occupied Byelorussia, such as *Biełaruskaja*

hazeta (1942-43) and *Biełaruskaja škoła* (1942); and in Germany, namely *Ranica* (1941-45), *Biełaruski rabotnik* (1944), and the clandestine anti-German *Biuleteń Biełaruskaj Niezależnickaj Partyi* (1944-45). The complete set of the official *Amtsblatt des Generalkommissars für Weissruthenien* (1941-44, parallel texts in German and Byelorussian) is a useful collection for the study of German occupation of Byelorussia during the Second World War. Finally, a mention should be made of a fairly comprehensive collection of Byelorussian émigré publications produced after 1945 in Germany and elsewhere. In particular there are complete sets of newspapers *Biełaruskija naviny* (1945-47), *Baćkaŭščyna* (1947-66), *Biełaruskaje słova* (1948-58), *Biełaruski emihrant* (1948-54), *Biełaruskaja trybuna* (1950-53); and journals *Pahonia* (1945-46), *Šlacham žyćcia* (1946-48), *Šypšyna* (1946-50), *Źviniać zvany Śviatoj Safii* (1946-47), *Adradžeńnie* (1947-48), *Źnič* (1948-72), *Napierad* (1948-53), *Moładź* (1948-54), *Vieda* (1951-54), *Konadni* (1954-63) and others.

The cartographical collection of the Library consist of over 100 maps from the 16th century onwards.

The extensive collection of manuscripts and archive material (some of the items on deposit) contains 24 documents in Byelorussian covering the period 1499-1682. There are many more documents of the 16th-18th centuries written in Latin, Polish and Byelorussian in Latin script. The Unique mid-17th century manuscript of the Uniate Pontifical Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom in Church Slavonic (Byelorussian recension) and parallel Latin translation was published in facsimile edition in 1978 by Bishop Ceslaus Sipovich. Another interesting manuscript is a Byelorussian Tatar *Tefsir*, or the Koran in Arabic with interlinear translation into Byelorussian and Polish, copied in the Arabic script in 1725 by Bohdan ibn-Ševban Asanovič. A large section of the archives of the Pinsk Vicariate (*Duchovnoje pravlenije*) of the Minsk Orthodox Diocese from the late 18th-middle of the 19th century (in all 186 cases comprising over 1,000 single documents), as well as other documents from various sources, both Catholic and Orthodox, from the late 19th century to the present day, contain much interesting material for the history of the Church in Byelorussia. Among documents relating to the political history of Byelorussia there is the manuscript of an unpublished work entitled *Haloŭnyja momenty biełaruskaha ruchu* by V. Zacharka, one of the protagonists of the attempts to establish an independent Byelorussian National Republic in 1918. Various Byelorussian organisations in the West have deposited their archives in the Library. The literary section contains archive materials and autographs of works of Janka Kupała and Jakub Kołas (in particular the manuscript of the former's famous poem *Kurhan* written in 1910), and of other writers such as V. Advažny, P. Syč, A. Sałaviej and Chv. Iljaševič. There are also unpublished manuscripts of works by the composers M. Ravienski, M. Kulikovič-Ščahłoŭ and A. Karpovič.

The photographic archives contain photographs of well known Byelorussian personalities and events, and general illustrations of life in Byelorussia, from the end of the 19th century to the present day.

The museum collection is particularly rich in examples of folk weaving and embroidery (bed covers, ornamental towels, girls' blouses, woven girdles etc.), and peasant household implements (spinning wheel, sickle, earthenware). The exhibits come from all parts of Byelorussia, most of them were made before 1939, some in the 19th century. Other items include two *słuckija pajasy*, the splendid 18th century girdles woven with gold and silk thread in the city of Słuck, and a priest's chasuble made of these girdles and similar girdles from Hrodna. There is a small collection of 16th-17th century coins from the Grand

Duchy of Lithuania, and a *hryŭnia*, or slab of silver used as a unit of currency in Byelorussia until the end of the 14th century. Nearer to our times, there is a selection of temporary banknotes issued in 1918 by the local authorities in Słuck, Mahiloŭ and Homiel in the absence of central government; and a fine postage stamp collection containing specimens of stamps used in Byelorussia in 1918-22, as well as Soviet stamps with Byelorussian motives. A special mention should be made of an 18th-century wooden crucifix from the Minsk region, a fine example of Byelorussian religious folk art. A collection of paintings, housed in a separate room, contains works by the Byelorussian artists K. Kastravicki, P. Sierhijevič, B. Małkin, V. Žaŭniarovič, P. Miranovič, U. Šymaniėc, M. Naŭmovič, M. Saŭka-Michalski and M. Paŭłoŭski.

The above description does not pretend to be comprehensive, but it may give an idea of the character of the Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and its holdings. It is the only institution of its kind in the West, and during the ten years of its existence it has succeeded in building up a unique collection of printed and manuscript material relating to Byelorussia. All this material is freely available to all those interested in Byelorussian studies, and to date over 500 students and scholars from Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Poland, America, Canada, Australia, Israel and other countries have made use of the Library's facilities for study and research. The Library is also the place where various meetings, conferences and lectures are held. In particular the Anglo-Byelorussian Society holds its annual courses on Byelorussian culture there. It is also a centre of bibliographical information about Byelorussia in the West, and bibliographies based on the Library's new accessions are compiled annually and published in *The Journal of Byelorussian Studies* and *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*.

The Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and Museum is an independent institution and is not in receipt of any grant or subsidy from public funds. Its existence has been made possible thanks to the generosity and understanding of its numerous friends and wellwishers. It is to be hoped that this generosity and understanding will continue in the future in order to enable the Library to fulfill its role which is, in the words of the Byelorussian writer Sakrat Janovič, to be 'the window of Byelorussian culture in the West'.

ALEXANDER NADSON

Some published works and bibliographies based on material held by the Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and Museum:

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Leeming, H., 'The Language of the Kucieina New Testament and Psalter of 1652', *The Journal of Byelorussian Studies*, III, 2, 1974: 123-38.

Nadson, A., 'A selected Bibliography on the History of Byelorussia, 1900-1921', *Sbornik* (Study Group on Russian Revolution), 3, 1977: 40-45.

Id., 'Selected Bibliography on Byelorussia', *The Journal of Byelorussian Studies*. Annually starting with Vol. III, No. 1, 1973.

Id., Byelorussian Studies', *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*. Annually, starting with Vol. 39, 1977.

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Picarda, G. de, *The Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and Museum*, London 1971.

Id., *Biełaruski carkoŭny śpieŭnik*, London 1979-81.

Sipovich, C., *The Pontifical Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. A Manuscript* of the 17th century in Slavonic and Latin Translation.

Žurnia, F., 'Biełaruskija relihijnyja vydańni XIX-XX stst.', *Božym šlacham*, No. 4, 1972: 4-9.

LIST OF BENEFACTORS

(As on the 1st September 1981)

A. D. (Australia)
*Abramčyk, N. (France)
Abolskaja, Z. (Australia)
Adamovič, A. (U.S.A.)
*Akinševič, L. (U.S.A.)
Akuła, K. (Canada)
Aleksandrovič, J. (Poland)
Aleksiejevič, M. (Canada)
Allwright, H. (Australia)
Andrejuk, E. (Australia)
Andrew (Kryt), Metropolitan (U.S.A.
*Aniśko, D. (U.K.)
Antonik, S. (U.S.A.)
Arechva, O. (U.S.A.)
Areška, A. (Belgium)
Arton, M. & V. (U.S.A.)
Asipovič, P. (U.K.)
*Astroŭski, V. (U.K.)
Aŭsiej, J. (U.K.)
Andre, M. (Australia)
Bahdanovič, H. (U.S.A.)
Bajaroŭski, M. (U.K.)
Bakunovič, M. (Australia)
Bakunovič, N. (U.S.A.)
Baran, J. (Canada)
Baranovič, H. (Canada)
Barščeŭski, A. (Poland)
Bartul, F. & V. (U.S.A.)
Bartul, Anna (U.S.A.)
Barysik, P. (Belgium)
Baum, E. (France)
Bielamuk, M. (U.S.A.)
Bielenis, A. (U.S.A.)
Bird, Th. (U.S.A.)
Błocki, S. (U.S.A.)
Bohdan, V. (U.S.A.)
Bortnik, Ul. (Germany)
Brucki, J. (U.S.A.)
Bryleŭski, V. (U.S.A.)
Bubnovič, S.
Bujviła, J. (France)
Budźka, Č. (U.S.A.)
*Bukata, A. (U.K.)
Bułyha, M. (France)
Butkievič, S. & K. (U.K.)
Butrymovič, Ul. (U.K.)
Butt-Husaim, V. (France)
Byelorussian Charitable Trust, (U.K.)
Byelorussian Club "Sakavik", Bradford
Byelorussian Club in Manchester
Chaniaŭka, Č. (U.S.A.)
Chmielik, T. (U.S.A.)
Chymz, M. (U.S.A.)
Ciechanowiecki, A. (U.K.)
Cipka, J. (U.S.A.)
Citovič, M. (Australia)
Cody, John Cardinal (U.S.A.)
Čvirka, Ul. (Germany)
Cymbalisty, P. (U.K.)
Cytovič, A. (U.K.)
Čabatar, C. (Australia)
Čajkoŭski, D. (Germany)
Čarnecki, J. (U.S.A.)
*Čarniaŭski, F. (U.S.A.)
Čorny, J. (Canada)
*Dabravolskaja, (Germany)
Danilčyk, E. (France)
Daniłovič, B. (U.S.A.)
Dingley, J. & P. (U.K.)
Dominik, J. & T. (U.K.)
*Döpfner, Julius Cardinal (Germany)
Dubojski, V. & I., (France)
Duškievič, A. (Australia)
Dziatłaŭ, V. (Australia)
Dziejko, M. (U.K.)
Gachovič, M. (U.K.)
Gajdel, P. & I. (U.S.A.)
Gardenia, P. (Fracne)
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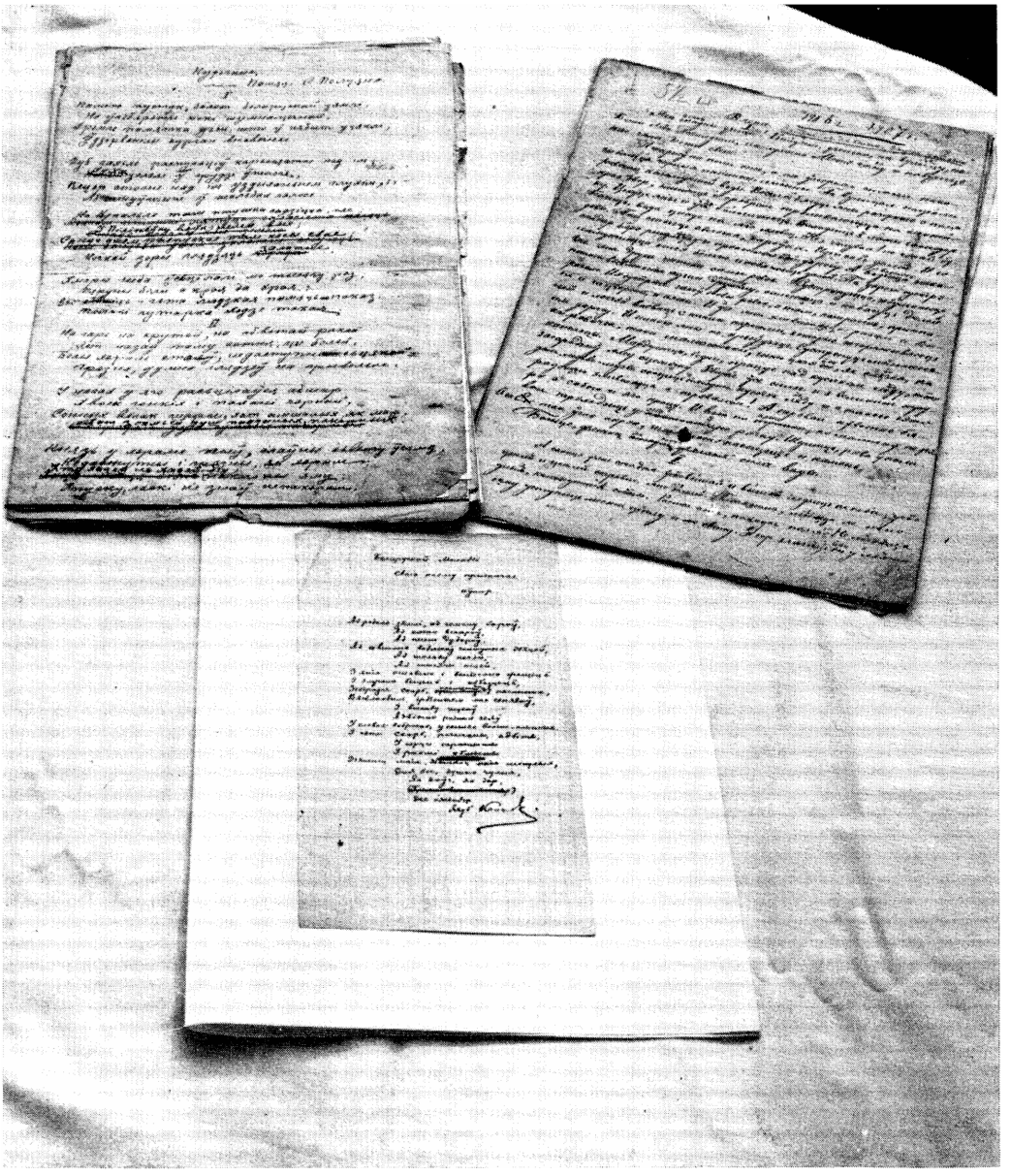
Gramond, J. (France)
Hahn, Wolfgang (Germany)
Halak, L. & R. (U.S.A.)
Hałkievič, J. (Australia)
Hańko, M. (Canada)
Hardyniec, A. (U.S.A.)
*Haroška, L. (U.K.)
Havienčyk, (France)
Henijuš, J. (Poland)
Herbert, Auberon (U.K.)
*Hermanovič, J. (U.K.)
Hirys, V. (Australia)
Hlinski, K. (U.K.)
Hładki, J. (U.S.A.)
Hoch. S. (Germany)
Hramiaka, U. (U.K.)
Hrebień, M.
Hruša, J. (Australia)
*Hrycuk, A. (Canada)
Hušča, B. (Australia)
Huz, P. (Australia)
Jancevič, J. (Canada)
Janovič, S. (Poland)
Jaśviłovič, J. & A. (U.K.)
Jaščanka, J. (Australia)
Jaŭnievič, M. (Australia)
*Jeleševič, P. (France)
Ješman, C. (U.K.)
*Joŭleŭ, M. (U.K.)
Junach, P. (U.K.)
*Jurčyk, (France)
Kachanoŭski, E. (U.S.A.)
Kachanoŭskaja, J. (U.S.A.)
Kačan, A. & O. (Australia)
*Kadniak, A. (Australia)
Kaleśnikievič, M. (U.K.)
Kałbasa, J. (U.K.)
Kałodka, A. (Australia)
Kałoša, K. (U.S.A.)
Kałubovič, E. & Rakovič, J. (U.S.A.)
Kananovič, F. (U.S.A.)
Karanieŭskaja, E. (Australia)
Karanieŭski, K. (Canada)
*Karanieŭski, M. (Australia)
Karniłovič, S. (U.S.A.)
Karp, V. (Australia)
Karyba, (Canada)
Kaściukievič, A. (U.S.A.)
Kaściukievič, V. (Canada)
Katkovič, Aniela (Poland)
*Kazak, R. (Germany)



Autographs of Janka Kupała and Jakub Kołas

Kipiel, V. & Z. (U.S.A.)
Kirka, B. (Canada)
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Kontek, N. (Australia)
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*Łabanok, M. (U.K.)
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Łoška, Sonia (Hong-Kong)
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N.C.W.C. (U.S.A.)
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Pańkoŭ, M. (U.S.A.)
Panucevič, V. (U.S.A.)
Parand, L. (U.K.)
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Picarda, G. & S. (U.K.)
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Prytycki, B. (U.S.A.)
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Puntus, M. (U.S.A.)
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Ramuk, V. & V. (U.S.A.)
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Ražaniec, A. (U.K.)
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Rich, V. (U.K.)
*Rudź, M. (U.K.)
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Ryan, W. (U.K.)
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*Sałaviej, U. (Germany)
Sankovič, (U.S.A.)
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Savicki-Brookie, Th. (New Zealand)
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